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FLOOR DEBATE

March 26, 2001      LB 542, 657

requirement that the Governor did that. The Governor did that as a matter of policy, and he's making, in my opinion, a very good policy statement because he's saying we want to rely more upon General Funds that we can count on than cigarette taxes which we can't count on. And so what he's putting into the 309 effort is not a cigarette tax but instead General Funds. And if you look across on that line at the increases that are a consequence of this year's budget...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...LB 542, increasing the depreciation charge to 2 percent, you will see that in fiscal '01-02 almost \$2 million is added; in fiscal '02-03 almost \$4 million is added. When you look at the next line, subtotal available for appropriation to 309, you will see an '01-02 it's \$11.5 million; in '02-03 it's \$13.5 million. Now if you look at the history, the other handout that I gave you, the history of 309, you will see that never before in history has \$13.5 million been put into the 309 fund, and that the continuing levy of \$13.5 million at least represents a high mark in the funding of 309, and that isn't all. I'll describe the rest of it to you later, but there's more. And I hope you'll hold this chart in front...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...of you for the next time because we'll follow on down through it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. The body is discussing the Wickersham amendment to the committee amendments to LB 657. Senator Quandahl.

SENATOR QUANDAH: Thank you, Mr. President. And I will yield my time in a minute to Senator Beutler to continue his discussion on the building renewal funds. But one thing that I felt compelled to stand up to say is that when I was appointed to be a state senator and later elected, I felt it was my duty and my obligation to be just that, a Nebraska state senator. And that's a person or a senator that looks at what's in the best interests of the entire state of Nebraska. The state of